

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-23, 35-37, 39-41, 48-52, 55-57, 59-61, 64, 65, 80, 81, 84, 85, 87-89, 92, and 93 remain in the application with claims 1, 16, 35, 37, 39, 41, 48, 59, 60, 64, 80, 87, 88, and 92 having been amended hereby and claims 53, 54, 62, 63, 66, 67, 82, 83, 90, 91, 94, and 95 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-23, 35-37, 39-41, 48-57, 59-67, 80-85, and 87-95 under 35 USC 103, as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. in view of Chung et al.

As explained in the present specification, the present invention provides a system that easily, and in a simple straightforward fashion, adds a watermark to a signal that is to be subsequently recorded and prevents or does not add the watermark to a signal that is simply going to be played back. When the user selects the record operation, the watermark is generated and connected to the adding circuit and subsequently added to the signal that is output to be recorded. In the event "record" is not selected, the switch connecting the watermark generating circuit to the adding circuit is opened and the watermark is not added and the signal simply passed through to be played back.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

As previously described, Kuroda et al. is simply reading a watermark that has been pre-embedded in the optical disc and determines an action to take based on the outcome of the reading of the watermark. The examiner concedes that Kuroda et al. does not disclose preventing the watermark information from being embedded when the decoding data is output as playback data.

Chung et al. is cited for disclosing this feature of the present invention. Nevertheless, it is respectfully submitted that the digital watermark remover of Chung et al. operates only to remove the digital watermark information in order to prevent an error while estimating motion on a temporal domain for the pictures. As stated at column 9, line 34, the digital watermark remover removes a watermark information embedded on the special domain of the discrete cosine transform while restoring a motion of the P and B picture. This is to prevent degradation of the image quality by removing the embedded watermark.

It is respectfully submitted that Chung et al. does not suggest the features of the present invention in which the watermark is added to decoded data that is selected to be subsequently recorded and preventing the insertion of the watermark in decoded data that is simply selected to be played back, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims

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hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a method and apparatus for outputting data that can selectively insert or not a digital watermark, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the claims, it is neither shown nor suggested in the cited references, alone or in combination.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search because this amendment simply refines the manner in which the features of the present invention that have already been present are recited.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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